

Frosty Beds.

Even bed is a frosty place in the Antarctic. The bunks were ranged round the sides of the hut, explained the speaker, and the icy wind blowing in through the chinks in the wall formed an ice wall on the inside to which the blankets froze solidly. "You didn't notice it though," observed Madigan, in a matter-of-fact tone, "unless your toe came into contact with a piece of ice." (Laughter).

Equal credit should be given to the men who returned to Australia from the main base last year, the speaker declared. The nine men who returned did quite as much work as those who stayed for the second year. Then again, the men who remained on Macquarie Island—a frightfully boggy place—had been overlooked also. Very modest are these Antarctic explorers.

Three Cheers for Australia.

"Adele Land is indeed not a very desirable pleasure resort," smilingly observed Mr. Percy Correll. "During the monotony of the long polar winter we often called for three cheers for good old Australia." (Laughter).

Correll was brief in his remarks; Hodgeman even briefer. Madigan had "said enough for all," they thought. On the motion of Mr. A. Dankel the three young explorers were accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

The Register
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The marriage of Dr. Mawson and Miss Paquita Delprat will be celebrated in Melbourne on March 31.

DR. MAWSON'S STORY.

On it being delicately suggested that Australians, after having contributed liberally to the cost of the Antarctic expedition, might feel slightly hurt at Dr. Mawson's silence for the first few hours on reaching Adelaide, pending his sending by cable to a London newspaper portion of the story of his experiences (says The Argus), Dr. Mawson said he was glad to have the opportunity of explaining his position. "The financing of the expedition was a tremendous undertaking," he said. "I had to make a bargain for the sale of my 'story' or else get more money contributed. I preferred to earn rather than beg, and had to allow for this sum of money that I was to get. As it is a large part of the salaries of the men have yet to be paid. Unfortunately, so my agent in England advised me, the London newspaper proprietary with whom I had the arrangement holds now that I did not keep to my share of the contract. The understanding was to give a 12 hours' priority. That I thought would mean practically simultaneous publication in Australia and England. What I did say in Adelaide on the day of my arrival was cabled to England, and appeared in other English newspapers. Now I am told I shall get nothing for the message I sent."

"NOT MUCH OF A CHURCHMAN."

Dr. Mawson, in response to an enquiry as to what the food consisted of during his 30 days lonely sledge journey (says The Argus) that he found so opportunely, said:—"It was plascon biscuit and pemmican, and was on a pile of snow blocks 10 ft. or 12 ft. high—one of three caches erected by the party of three men Capt. Davis sent out to make such provision for our return journey." As to the burial service over the abyss where Lieut. Ninnis was lost, the interviewer asked, "Surely, doctor, on such a race for life you could not delay long for a religious service?" "Well, I am not much of a church man," said the explorer, "but I had the Anglican prayer-book always on the sledge, and read the service then, and afterwards over the remains of Dr. Merz. It seemed to help one on. Even when it came to the last point I threw away the scientific instruments before anything else. I am particularly pleased to have been able to bring back the diaries of both Ninnis and Merz. Every little meant so much, though I feel that the ill-fated members of the Scott expedition must have been mentally affected by the disappointment they felt at being anticipated by Amundsen at the South Pole. There was not a geologist in the party, but there they were carrying heavy bags of stone of which they could not have known the value. Without such a hunt-up they may not all have been lost."

SCIENCE CONGRESS.

AUSTRALIAN MEETING, 1914.

The following is the list of officers appointed by the council of the British Association for the Advancement of Science to control its eighty-fourth annual meeting, to be held in the capital cities of the Commonwealth during August of this year. His Majesty the King is the Patron of the Association:—

President, Professor William Bateson; Immediate Past President, Sir Oliver Lodge.

Vice-Presidents, The Governor-General of the Commonwealth, the Governors of the States, the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, the Premiers of the States, the Lord Mayors of Sydney and Melbourne, and the Mayors and Chancellors of the Universities of the principal cities.

General Treasurer, Professor John Perry. General Secretaries, Professor W. A. Hardman, Professor H. H. Turner; Assistant Secretary, O. J. R. Howarth, Burlington House, London; Chief Clerk and Assistant Treasurer, H. C. Stewardson, Burlington House, London.

Federal Council for the Australian Meeting—President, the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth; Chairman, Professor Orme Masson; Secretary, M. L. Shepherd, Prime Minister's Department, Melbourne.

General Organizing Secretary for the Australian Meeting, A. C. D. Rivett, Prime Minister's Department, Melbourne.

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Victoria.—Chairman, Professor Orme Masson; Secretary, Professor Baldwin Spencer; Treasurer, O. M. Williams.

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South Australia.—Chairman, Professor E. C. Stirling, C.M.G.; Secretary, Professor Kerr Grant; Treasurer, Thomas Gill, I.S.O.

Western Australia.—Chairman, Sir Winthrop Hackett; Secretary, James S. Battye; Acting Secretaries, Professor W. J. Dakin, W. Catton Grasby.

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